



6 to 9 May 2024

# VINTAGE SHAMROCK THE DAILY DISPATCH



## Day 1 Scrutineering, Johnstown - Swainstown loop

6 May 2024

For the second time in as many years, *Rally the Globe* is on the Emerald Isle collaborating with *Irish Racing Green* for the *Vintage Shamrock*.

This is the 5th running of the event and, thanks to the good offices of Anthony Preston and Mark Appleton, it features a push to the west towards the Atlantic. The journey begins, however, just outside Dublin in the grounds of the Johnstown Estate, where 60 pre-war cars and crews have assembled for scrutineering and signing on.

In the car park, Andy Inskip, Russ Smith and Jack Amies check the vehicles for safety and compliance, lending the expertise needed to remedy those annoying last-minute problems. They are pleased to be joined by Nicky Bailey, a local lad and something of a vintage car/endurance rally specialist with several long-distance events under his belt aboard various cars at the more unlikely end of the spectrum. Nicky's contacts proved invaluable even before the event began, when Chris and Ingrid Woodhouse's MG L1 Special threw a nut into its magneto requiring a trip to a machine shop for some skilful fettling minutes before the flag was dropped.

In the slightly warmer, but no less hectic, surroundings of the Rally Office, Gill Cotton and Sue Vincent dealt with the paperwork and distribution of the all-important rally regalia.

There was a lot to pack into the morning, but with all of the jobs ticked off, a short welcome speech from Rally Director Fred Gallagher and Clerk of the Course Mark Appleton and a hearty lunch was all that stood in the way of Fred waving the cars away for a half day of relatively relaxed rallying. The crews didn't have to wait long to get into the swing of things, as within 5 miles of the start the first Regularity at Castlerickard lead the rally deep into the rolling, tree-lined lanes of County Meath.

This was a reasonably sedate section whereas the subsequent Test at the Athboy Karting Centre was a little less so, with two cars struggling with the requisite pace. Simon and Juanita Brien's MG K3 Magnette and David and Julie Gomes's MG K3 were seen puffing, banging and blowing a little. No doubt this evening, their crews and the



Hans and Marien Kuipers, 1924 Bentley 3/4½



Nick and Jess Sleep, 1926 Bentley Supersports

Photos: gerardbrown.co.uk

CHUBB®

BARRETT PRIVATE  
INSURANCES



www.rallytheglobe.com





Francis and Marie Rhatigan, 1939 BMW 327/80



Andrew and Ann Boland, 1934 Talbot AV105

sweeps will be taking a good look at both of them.

Delicious coffee and cake was served in the Piggery Cafe at the Time Control in Swainstown Farm after which the Swainstown Test shot the rally out of their pastoral idyll via a series of gravel roads with some square turns thrown in. The loose surface, tight corners and a pirouette through the trees were savoured as much as the refreshments and

set the crews up for the Second Regularity from Skreen. Then it was off towards the final Test within the grounds of Johnstown Estate itself.

From the final timing point it was just a matter of metres to the car park and night halt where the crews sat down to dinner, a well-stocked bar and compared notes and reflections on an excellent half day of motoring against the clock.

